



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 30, 2009

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Committee Hearing on In-Home Supportive Services Program Changes

On October 28, 2009, the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3, Health and Human Services, convened a hearing to discuss the implementation of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program changes, enacted as part of the FY 2009-10 State Budget Act.

The changes, which are scheduled to take affect on November 1, 2009, include screening caregivers, completing criminal background checks and fingerprinting of IHSS providers, conducting unannounced home visits of high-risk cases, and in-person verification of provider identification by county social workers. The changes will impact 450,000 IHSS recipients in the State, including 185,000 IHSS recipients in Los Angeles County.

Testimony was provided by County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and various advocate groups. During the testimony, CWDA Executive Director, Frank Mecca stated that the lack of clear and final guidance from the State will prevent counties from being able to meet the November 1, 2009 implementation deadline. Mr. Mecca advised the Committees that CWDA and several counties including Los Angeles have asked for an extension, and stated that some counties are concerned with the possibility of unsafe conditions for thousands of IHSS recipients and potential lawsuits from both IHSS recipients and providers if implementation is not delayed.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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The California Department of Social Services explained that the final instructions and an allocation of \$10 million in funding to implement the fraud deterrence protocols will be completed by October 30, 2009, which is two days before the implementation date. Representatives from CDSS testified that counties are expected to comply with the November 1, 2009 implementation date and that CDSS will attempt to work with counties to resolve their concerns.

Assembly Member Evans said that she will introduce clean-up legislation next week to set a new implementation date for the IHSS changes. The Committee is scheduled to reconvene on November 5, 2009 to further review this issue.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:GA:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
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